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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FP1897	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)

International application No. PCT/SG 2003/000235	International filing date (day/month/year) 1 October 2003 (01.10.2003)	Priority Date (day/month/year)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC

IPC^7: G06F 17/24 17/22

Applicant

VIBRASOFT PTE. LTD.

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examination Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of __5__ sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   I. ☒ Basis of the opinion

   II. ☐ Priority

   III. ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

   IV. ☐ Lack of unity of invention

   V. ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

   VI. ☐ Certain documents cited

   VII. ☐ Certain defects in the international application

   VIII. ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14.04.2005	Date of completion of this report 23 December 2005 (23.12.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT Austrian Patent Office Dresdner Straße 87 A-1200 Vienna Facsimile No. 1/53424/200	Authorized officer SCHLECHTER B. Telephone No. 1/53424/448

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements of the international application:***

   ☒ the international application as originally filed

   ☐ the description:
   pages _____ , as originally filed
   pages _____ , filed with the demand
   pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

   ☐ the claims:
   pages _____ , as originally filed
   pages _____ , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
   pages _____ , filed with the demand
   pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

   ☐ the drawings:
   pages _____ , as originally filed
   pages _____ , filed with the demand
   pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

   ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
   pages _____ , as originally filed
   pages _____ , filed with the demand
   pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
   These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

   ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

   ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

   ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.

   ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

   ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

   ☐ the description, pages _____.

   ☐ the claims, Nos. _____.

   ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

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* *Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as „originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).*
** *Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.*

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT	International application No. PCT/SG 2003/000235

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims ____		YES
	Claims 1-40		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims ____		YES
	Claims 1-40		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-40		YES
	Claims ____		NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents have been cited in the Search Report:

D1: US 2003149935 A1
D2: McKelvie, D., A. Isard, A. Mengel, M.B. Møller, M. Grosse "The MATE Workbench
 - an annotation tool for XML coded speech corpora",
 Speech Communication 33 (1-2) (2001) pp 97-112. Special Issue "Speech Annotation
 and Corpus Tools".
 (http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/290011.html)
D3: Ashvil, "Can XSLT be bi-directional?", [2000-07-02], Retrieved from the Internet
 (retrieved on 2005-12-20),
http://www.stylusstudio.com/xmldev/200007/post90030.html
D4: US 2004044965 A1

The present application claims a method of propagating changes made to parts of a transformed version of a document back to the corresponding parts of the source document. In order to know which parts of a transformed document correspond to which parts of a source document, unique identifiers are generated and added to source documents before carrying out transformations. Transformations preserve these ids allowing back propagation of changes.

D1 describes a document authoring system using techniques essentially identical to those in the present application, as can be extracted from the following paragraphs:
[0115] "In response to a request from the client terminal, the data of XML format is converted into the HTML format and sent out from the server 12. The XSLT is used to convert the XML into HTML. At this XSLT conversion time, the individual identification numbers are given to the clickable information..."
[0209] "The data on the browser is synchronized with the data of the server by the identification number. ..."

Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (page 1)

[0083] "... Moreover, the program mainly includes: a data management function portion 12a which gives individual identification numbers to the output data, specifies a portion of the corresponding document to be edited based on the identification number, and updates (including adding/deleting) and processes the document of the XML format included in the server 12 to one-dimensionally manage the information in the document authoring system; ..."

[0111] "In EDITS, all the HTML data (sentence, table, image, and the like) displayed on the browser are selectable (clickable), and include individual identification numbers. ..."

[0112] "The user (client) who operates the terminal can access the data identified by the individual identification numbers through an operation of clicking the image display symbol easily seen by a human. That is, when the image display symbol displayed on the browser side is operated, specific data on the server 12 can be operated."

"Claim 11 of D1 recites a document authoring system comprising:
a server including an authoring management program in which a predetermined program is used to prepare a document including tables; and client terminals connected to the server via the Internet in an accessible manner, function elements of the authoring management program comprising: a data management function portion which interprets output data as a change command from the server, attaches individual identification numbers to the data, specifies a part of the document to be edited based on the identification number, and updates the XML document to manage information in the document authoring system in an unitary manner; an editing management function portion which edits XML document data based on predetermined information input from the client terminal via the server; a data conversion function portion which converts a data format for use in the client terminal so as to match the data format with the format of the document data; and a script function portion which supplies an input support function related with the document editing to the client terminal.

Claim 12 of D1 recites a document authoring system according to claim 11, wherein the data management function portion verifies and updates the corresponding part in the document based on a matching list prepared corresponding to the identification number concerning an editing object part of the document data designated by clicking/operating an image display symbol which can be clicked/operated from the client terminal."

D2 describes a tool for annotating XML coded speech corpora, i.e. an editor for XML data where the data is transformed using style sheets and "back pointers" are used to propagate changes made in the transformed version back to the source document. The internal representation used by the system contains "node identifiers".

"Because we want actions on the user display to have effects on the underlying corpus (i.e. we want to support editing), we need to keep back-pointers from the display objects to the parts of the corpus which they refer to. Since each display object was created by the instantiation of some template in the style sheet, which matched against an element in the input document, this concept of back-pointer can be defined in a consistent way."

D3 mentions using "back pointers" to propagate changes back to the source tree:
"I was thinking of an extended XSLT processor that would automatically add more information to the resultant tree (eg. Back pointers to the original tree), so that it could apply the reverse transformation. In a way like this:

Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (page 2)

```
    Extended           Extended
     XSLT               XSLT
XML tree ---> XHTML tree ----> (Users edit ---> XML tree
      (with         data only     (with
      information   no tree       updated
      for reverse   manipulation  data)
      transformation)  is allowed)
```
"

D4 describes an identical editing system for XML documents using node ids (see especially fig. 7) but was published after the application date of the present application.

Thus, the claimed subject matter exhibits neither novelty nor inventiveness over the cited documents.

Furthermore, several claims are found either not statutory according to PCT-Rules or contradicting in view of the disclosure of the description:

Claims of the kind "A method X wherein Y" plus "A method X wherein not Y" do not contribute to the inventive character of the claimed method. More generally, enumerating all or most possibilities for a feature in a claim basically means, that any possibility is fine and that there is no special contribution to the state of the art in the way the choice is made. See claims 3 and 4 of the present application for an example.

An aggregation of well-known features does not represent an inventive step unless the overall effect is surprising or more than the sum of the effects of the constituent features. For example using thin or fat clients as mentioned in claims 30 and 31 is independent of the identification and transformation processes described. Almost any system can be decomposed as a client-server system with thin or fat clients and the decomposition in the claims do not produce any effects that one wouldn't expect of typical client-server systems.

Industrial standards cannot be claimed in patents (see claims 32 – 34). Standards are suggestions for agreements between two or more parties to comply with certain specifications and may be proposed by organizations like the ISO.

The present description says that no reverse transformation is necessary for using the present method. Fig. 5 shows such a reverse transformation between the steps 54 and 55, <Telmt> being transformed back to <elmt/>.

The method described in the application doesn't work for all transformations. Transformations must satisfy certain criteria in order to be usable with the method. These criteria are not mentioned in the application. For example, non-injective mappings, "joins", and transformations with aggregation functions cannot be used.

Industrial applicability is given.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Supplemental Box) (July 1998)